

BILL NO. 89-70

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 89-70

Introduced by Council President Hardwicke
at the request of the County Executive

Legislative Day No. 89-36 Date December 5, 1989

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact with amendments, Section 267-83, heading Historic Landmark Lists of Article XV, heading Enumeration of Historic Landmarks, of Chapter 267, heading, Zoning, all part of the Harford County Code, as amended; to provide for the designation of an additional County landmark.

By the Council, December 5, 1989

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled
on: January 2, 1990
at: 7:30 P.M.

By Order: Doris Poulsen, Secretary

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on January 2, 1990, and concluded on, January 2, 1990

Doris Poulsen, Secretary

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

BILL NO. 89-70

1 Section 1. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford
 2 County, Maryland, that Section 267-83, heading, Historic Landmark
 3 Lists, be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted as Article XV,
 4 heading Enumeration of Historic Landmarks, of Chapter 267,
 5 heading, Zoning, all part of the Harford County Code, as amended,
 6 all to read as follows:

7 Section 267-83. Historic Landmarks List.

8 (a) The following sites are designated as historic
 9 landmarks in accordance with [Article XI, § 267-66D] CHAPTER
 10 267, PART II, ARTICLES X-XV. The boundaries of the historic
 11 landmarks are shown on the official historic districts and
 12 landmarks maps, on file with the Department of Planning and
 13 Zoning, which are attached hereto and incorporated herein by
 14 reference.

15 Historic Number	Name
16 0.1.937	Christopher's Camp
17 0.2.441	Churchville Presbyterian Church
18	and Cemetery
19 29.3.225	Hays House
20 33.4.609	Little Falls Meeting House Burial
21	Ground and Fallston Friends School
22	House
23 0.5.854	Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House
24 5.6.4	Rigbie House
25 0.7.1312	St. Francis de Sales Church
26 7.8.5	Sophia's Dairy
27 3.9.168	St. Mary's Church

1	0.10.561	Stansbury Mansion
2	21.11.49	Thomas Run Church
3	0.12.165	Deer Creek Harmony Presbyterian
4		Church
5	32.13.12	Deer Creek Friends Meeting House
6		and Cemetery
7	20.14.6	Bon Air
8	34.15.307	McComas Institute
9	15.16.249	Spesutia Church Vestry House and
10		Cemetery
11	0.17.867	Bush Hotel
12	26.18.1315	Joppa Historic District
13	4.19.44	D. H. Springhouse
14	0.20.113	King and Queen Seats
15	0.21.1117	WHITAKER MILL AND MILLER'S HOUSE

16 Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted that this Act shall take
 17 effect sixty (60) calendar days from the date it becomes law.

18

19 EFFECTIVE: March 5, 1990

20

21

The Secretary of the Council does hereby
 certify that fifteen (15) copies of this Bill
 are immediately available for distribution to
 the public and the press.

22

23

Doris Poulsen, Secretary

24

25

26

27

LANDMARK NUMBER

1. Name of Landmark:

Whitaker Mill and Miller's House

2. Historic Name:

Same

3. Location:

1212 Whitaker Mill Road, Joppa (mill)

1210 Whitaker Mill Road, Joppa (miller's house)

4. Owner:

Mrs. William Paul Hicks, II

1212 Whitaker Mill Road

Joppa, Maryland 21085

5. Significance:

Whitaker Mill is one of the few mills remaining in a county that once boasted upwards of 400. It is, moreover, among the best preserved and "the magnificent stone structure" (C. Milton Wright) is one of the largest mills ever built in Harford County. Moreover, in its hey-day, the mill was the most productive in the county, in terms of value of goods. Franklin Whitaker, who built the mill, was an important figure in the county, and was elected to the Maryland General Assembly. Finally, the mill, converted to a private residence in the 1950s, is a superb example of adaptive re-use and the work was praised by the Baltimore Sunday Sun.

6. Area to be included:

2.753 acres of land as shown on Harford County Tax Map 56, parcel 46.

7. Physical Description:

Whitaker Mill is a massive rubble stone structure built in 1851 as datestone attests. It measures 40' by 60' and stands 2 1/2 stories above grade on the north (road) side beneath a slate gable roof; because it was built into a hill, the mill is 3 1/2 stories tall on the south. The mill was unusual in having an undershot wheel, one of the "few in Harford County" (Maryland mill expert John McGrain). Milling operations ceased shortly after Whitaker's death in 1895 and the building was eventually abandoned. It was saved when Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hicks purchased it in 1954 and converted it to domestic use. They kept the exterior largely intact, and made only necessary changes to the interior.

The Miller's House, which may predate the mill, is a 1 1/2-story rubble stone two-bay long structure beneath a

gable roof. The end walls have flush, centrally placed brick chimneys. The original floorplan--two rooms per floor with a center stair--is intact. There is an attractive small frame wing to the west, designed by James T. Wollon, AIA.

8. History:

There has been a mill on this site, to take advantage of the 14-foot fall in Winter's Run, since at least 1795 when Dennis Griffith's "Map of Maryland" showed Gibson's Mill here. That old mill passed through several hands until Franklin and Rebecca Whitaker acquired it in 1846, Rebecca inheriting it from her late father, Caleb Pue. (Pue was something of an entrepreneur, owning five lots in the then-thriving town of Abingdon, three lots in Baltimore City, and three farms in the Gunpowder Neck, which, at the time of his death, he was in the process of selling to Philadelphia bon vivant General George Cadwalader.) The Whitakers replaced the old mill with what C. Milton Wright called a "magnificent stone structure" in 1851. (It is generally believed that they built the stone miller's house at the same time, although the simple dwelling could have been the building mentioned in a May 22, 1792, ad for this property in The Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser: which noted "a stone mill-house and a dwelling house.") Whitaker prospered here: the 1880 census shows that he had three employees at his mill (valued at \$7,000); output was "1400 bbl flour, 75 tons meal, 84 tons feed, 1 ton hominy, and 2,000 tons buckwheat" in all worth \$11,430. For comparative purposes, that same year Noble's Mill was cited as producing \$8,000 worth of goods; Wilson's Mill \$3,000; Rock Run \$9,084; Amos \$7,000; Mill Green \$3,100; and Jerusalem \$10,200. The complex survived several floods, including a serious one in 1885, after which The Aegis commented that there was "a loss to Mr. Whitaker of \$2,000" and that "the iron bridge at Whitaker's mill" was "lifted up at one end but dropped back." But milling in Maryland couldn't survive changes in the national economy and, as the Midwest's vast grain fields were developed, milling became less and less important in the East. Whitaker himself died in 1895 (his wife had predeceased him by a year); none of his heirs wished to continue their father's trade so the complex was sold in 1897. The mill was abandoned and gradually fell into disrepair until Mr. and Mrs. Hicks bought it in 1954. They gently converted the building into their home, drawing praise for their efforts from the Sunday Sun, which headlined a story on the place "Mill Becomes a House Yet Stays a Mill" (April 1, 1962).

9. Tax Account Number:

13-03-044777

10. Land Record:

Liber GRG 433 Folio 14

89-70

BY THE COUNCIL

BILL NO. 89-70

Read the third time.

Passed LSD 90-1 (January 2, 1990)

Failed of Passage _____

By Order


Doris Poulsen, Secretary

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive
for his approval this 3rd day of January, 1990
at 3:00 o'clock P.M.

Doris Poulsen, Secretary

APPROVED:

BY THE EXECUTIVE

The seal of Carroll County, Maryland, is circular with a serrated edge. It features a central emblem surrounded by the text "CARROLL COUNTY" and "MARYLAND".

[Signature]

County Executive

Date 1-4-90

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, (No. 89-70), having been approved by the Executive
and returned to the Council, becomes law on January 4, 1990.

Doris Poulsen, Secretary

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 5, 1990

89-70